



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. | |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| 10/015,684 | 12/17/2001 | Kazuo Kuroda | Q67641 | 8061 | |
| 7590 | 07/27/2006 | EXAMINER | | | |
| SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC 2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20037-3202 | | | | WINDER, PATRICE L | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | | |
| | | 2145 | | | |

DATE MAILED: 07/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| | 10/015,684 | KURODA, KAZUO |
| Examiner | Art Unit | |
| Patrice Winder | 2145 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

WHEN TO FILE A BRIEF, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I in the reply filed on May 9, 2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al., USPN 6,669,564 (hereafter referred to as Young) in view of Hoekstra, USPN 5,905,862 (hereafter referred to as Hoekstra).

4. Regarding claim 1, Young discloses a network game system for operating on a network a game made up of basic content containing a basic program for executing start of a game solely and one or more types of relevant content each containing a relevant program corresponding to the basic program for further advancing the game started by the basic program (column 11, lines 11-30), the system comprising:

a content management section adapted to set a content providing asset information of which users are not notified in one or more content providing servers each in which the relevant program is placed (column 12, lines 63-68; column 13, lines 1-8, 35-42);

a search engine for a target content providing home page adapted to receive over the network hint keywords input by a user from a user terminal and for using the received keywords as the search condition to perform a search processing to create a list of relevant content providing home page addresses and sending the list to the user terminal (column 13, lines 43-58);

wherein the content providing server sends the relevant content placed in the content providing server to the user terminal in response to a download request made by the accessing user (column 13, lines 43-58).

Young does not specifically teach the asset information is a home page address. However, Hoekstra taught registering a home page address with a search engine (column 4, lines 41-65). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that incorporating Hoekstra's registering a home page address in Young's system for searching for additional gaming information would have improved effectiveness. The motivation would have been to provide a robust mechanism for users to find the home page.

5. Regarding claim 2, Young-Hoekstra further discloses the relevant content has a check program for previously checking link possibility with the basic content or any other type of relevant content (Young, column 3, lines 15-47).

6. Regarding claim 3, Young-Hoekstra further discloses upon reception of the download request made by the accessing user, the content providing server checks a holding state of relevant content in the user terminal and checks link possibility between

the relevant content held in the user terminal and the relevant content requested to be downloaded (Young, column 3, lines 15-47; column 9, lines 51-67).

7. Regarding claim 4, Young-Hoekstra further discloses each of the content one or more types of relevant content for the accessing user and the content management section sets the address of which the users are not notified in the one or more content providing home pages (Young, column 3, lines 15-47)(Hoekstra, column 4, lines 41-65).

8. Regarding claim 5, Young-Hoekstra further discloses the content management section changes the address of the content providing home page with a lapse of time (Young, column 3, lines 15-47; column 13, lines 43-67).

9. Regarding claim 6, Young-Hoekstra further discloses the content providing server determines unauthorized access to the content providing home page and if unauthorized access is made, changes the address of the content providing home page (Young, column 10, lines 1-43).

10. Regarding claim 7, Young-Hoekstra further discloses the content providing server limits the number of users for which the relevant content is to be provided from the content providing home page (Young, column 9, lines 21-67) .

11. Regarding claim 8, Young-Hoekstra further discloses the content management means comprises user information registration means for registering user information and enables the relevant content to be provided only for the registered users (Young, column 10, lines 1-43).

12. Regarding claim 9, Young-Hoekstra further discloses to provide the relevant content for the user terminal, the content providing server performs mutual

authentication processing with the user based on the user information and provides the relevant content for the user terminal after authenticating identification of the user (Young, col. 10, lines 1-43).

13. Regarding claim 10, Young-Hoekstra further discloses the content management means has a management server for managing the download enable state of the relevant content from the content providing home page and when terminating downloading the relevant content from the content providing home page belonging to the content providing server, the content providing server notifies the management server of the fact (Young, column 3, lines 15-47; column 9, lines 51-67).

14. Regarding claims 11-17, claims 11-17 have similar limitations as claims 1-10. Therefore, they are rejected under Young-Hoekstra for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1-10 (Supra 1-10).

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrice Winder whose telephone number is 571-272-3935. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 am-7:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on 571-272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Patrice Winder
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2145

July 22, 2006